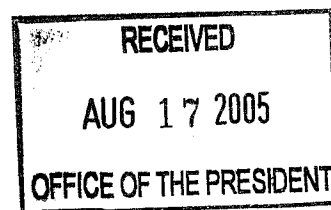




TOWN OF CAREFREE

100 EASY STREET
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CAREFREE, ARIZONA 85377
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August 16, 2005

The Honorable Ken Bennett
President of the Senate
1700 W. Washington, Senate Wing
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable James Weiers
Speaker of the House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington, House Wing
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: TOWN OF CAREFREE MAIL BALLOT PRIMARY ELECTION HELD MARCH 8, 2005

Dear Gentlemen:

Pursuant to A.R.S. 16-409.B, the Town of Carefree hereby submits it's Mail Ballot Election Report.

1. CHANGES IN VOTER TURNOUT.

Our March 8, 2005 Primary Election showed lower voter turnout, about 5% lower than the Primary Election held in March of 2003. However, there was no other item on the ballot, only the election of 7 members of the Town Council.

Following are the statistics:

<u>ELECTION DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS</u>	<u>NUMBER BALLOTS CAST</u>	<u>VOTER TURNOUT %</u>
3/07/87	922	344	37
3/21/89	1,118	377	33
3/19/91	1,396	231	16
3/09/93	1,647	395	23
5/18/93	1,584	203	12
3/14/95	1,741	385	22
5/16/95	1,764	404	22
3/11/97 (first mail ballot)	1,950	875	45
3/09/99	1,967	994	51
5/18/99	1,967	1,035	53
3/13/01	2,011	997	50
3/11/03	2,182	1,133	51
5/20/03	2,138	1,016	48

3/08/05

2,461

1,059

43

2. COST OF MAIL BALLOT ELECTION COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL ELECTIONS.

The cost of our mail ballot election was \$1.47 per voter and was contracted through Maricopa County. The total was \$5,188.57 including all the legal ads such as call of election and financial statement.

<u>ELECTION DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>	<u>COST PER VOTER</u>
3/07/87	922	\$1,410	\$1.52
3/21/89	1,118	\$1,413	\$1.26
3/19/91	1,396	\$1,447	\$1.03
3/09/93	1,647		
5/18/93	1,584	\$3,328 (combined)	\$1.03
3/14/95	1,741		
5/16/95	1,764	\$3,594 (combined)	\$1.02
3/11/97	1,950	\$1,950	\$1.00
3/09/99	1,967		\$1.00
5/18/99	1,967	\$3,881 (combined)	\$1.00
3/13/01	1,971	\$2,897	\$1.47
3/11/03	2,182	\$3,208	\$1.47
5/20/03	2,138	\$3,143	\$1.47
3/8/05	2,461	\$3,668 (includes \$50 delivery charge for ballots)	\$1.47

3. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS OR REFINEMENTS IN THE MAIL BALLOT PROGRAM.

Due to past experience, we were prepared for a wide difference between election night unofficial results and the official results which came in a few days later. With the wide discrepancy we had experienced previously, the people were more understanding and did not have such high expectations regarding the early results.

It was recommended and agreed to by the County that our ballot box would be picked up as usual the week before the election, and I would deliver it to Cave Creek after the polls closed on election night to be taken to the County for counting.

There was still a small difference of approximately 10% of the votes counted between the unofficial results on election night and the official results we received a few days later. We had made it clear to the media and the public that the election night results were unofficial and not necessarily correct and the correct count would be available a few days later. This helped calm the public and the candidates. We found that the trends continued for both the early (unofficial) ballot count and the final (official) ballot count with one exception.

We would continue to suggest a process be developed so that a better total could be available earlier. We look forward to the day when we can vote by the Internet and have almost immediate results.

4. FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY OF MAIL BALLOT IRREGULARITIES.

Neither the Town of Carefree nor the Maricopa County Elections Department observed any irregularities.

5. VOTER SATISFACTION WITH THE PROCESS.

There were no complaints from our voters this year. Those who were uncertain about mailing their ballots were welcome to place their ballots in the ballot box which was available at the front counter from the time the ballots were mailed until 7 p.m. election night.

6. NUMBER OF NON-DELIVERABLE BALLOTS.

For the March 8, 2005 election, The County Election Department mailed 2,461 ballots; of those, none were returned.

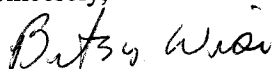
7. FINAL WORDS.

As the election official for the Town of Carefree, I find that mail ballot elections still insure a higher voter turn out.

We noticed with this election that voters are much more comfortable with mail ballot elections and we had few spoiled ballots or those that had to be verified.

There was less concern by the voters in our town following these elections regarding the slow final results because people are more aware of the system. It seems that faster results should be available with the technological breakthroughs of the 21st Century, however, and we look forward to internet voting.

Sincerely,



Betsy Wise
TOWN OF CAREFREE
Town Clerk/Treasurer

C: Town Council
Jon Pearson, Town Administrator
Yvonne Reed, County Elections Department